

two boys and one girl, or two girls and one boy (or more as a group), in deadly rivalry. The first of the three triangular situations was between Frank, Dan and Priscilla; the second, Christopher, Dan and Priscilla; and the third, a struggle between Priscilla and Jane, for the love and homage of Dan (in particular). Dan was a good deal the youngest child in each case, but his unusually vivid personality, coupled with his intimate friendship with Priscilla out of school, discounted the difference in age and made him a sufficiently formidable rival to the others. The various incidents described show how intense the rivalry was in each case, how far the successful rival would go in triumph over the excluded one, and how bitterly that exclusion was felt.

The third of these triangular situations was rather more complicated than the others. Jane's superiority in age to all the other children not only gave her prestige over the whole group, but emphasised the element of *power* rather than of love in her struggle with Priscilla. Dan was the main point of that struggle, although all the other younger children who had any interest at all for Jane were drawn into the arena as well. But it appeared as if Jane was more concerned to show her power over Priscilla than she was to enjoy the affection of Dan and the other small boys, Priscilla had now for the first time to suffer defeat, after having hitherto been in the ineffable position of the one sought after and contested for. It was in fact a very severe experience for her, unfortunately made more so by the accident that it largely coincided with a long absence of Mrs. I.'s from the school through illness, and the fact that Jane was far less amenable to the control or critical opinion

of other members of the staff. (Much of this material will be found under *Group Hostility to Younger Children*, since Jane succeeded in welding most of the other children together into a group against Priscilla. But Jane was the mainspring of the machinery, and the whole situation was really a personal and sexual rivalry between the two girls.)

An interesting cross-current is shown in Dan's remark to Jane on 14.11.26, " Priscilla doesn't like you as much as me.* Dan here felt Jane to be a rival with him for Priscilla's regard, and probably feared that Priscilla and Jane might band *together* against him, although he had in truth little reason to imagine such a possibility. And Jane's response,